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FIRST FORECAST INDICATES LARGE WORLD CORN CROP

World corn production in 1953-54 is estimated to be about the same as the near-record 1952-53 crop, on the basis of preliminary information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. The current estimate of 5.6 billion bushels is very slightly below last year's outturn which had been exceeded only by the record world crop of 6 billion bushels in 1948. Maintenance of last year's high total is attributed to good outturns in Europe and favorable prospects in South America, which offset reductions in other areas. This first estimate of the world total includes allowances for harvests in Southern Hemisphere countries, where planting is still underway, with present estimates subject, of course, to considerable change on the basis of actual harvest results.

Production in North America is estimated at 3,400 million bushels, 118 million bushels less than in 1952. That is the smallest corn production in this area since 1945. The bulk of the reduction is in the United States, with the indication for Mexico accounting for the remainder. The estimated crop of 3,196 million bushels for all purposes, in the United States represents 94 percent of the continental total and 57 percent of the estimated world total for this season. The current estimate is 110 million bushels less than the total for all purposes last year and is 409 million bushels less than the record harvest of 3,605 million bushels for this country in 1948. Of the 3,196 million bushels this year, a total of 2,860 million is expected to be harvested as grain. Corn produced in 1953 is mostly of good quality and low moisture content, which will facilitate storage. The crop reduction from last year is due to a decrease in acreage and smaller yields per acre. Estimated yields of 39.6 bushels per acre, however, are still among the highest of record.

The crop in Mexico, the second largest corn producer of North America, is forecast at 126 million bushels, compared with 134 million in 1952 and the prewar average (1935-39) of 68 million bushels. Acreage is estimated to be about the same as in 1952 but yields are not up to the high yields of a year ago. The crop in Canada is estimated at 19.5 million bushels, about the same as in 1952 but much above the prewar average of 7 million bushels. Acreage and yields are considerably above the prewar level.

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old per acre, and production in specified countries

Continent and country	Acreage 2/				Yield per acre 3/				Production			
	Average		1951	1952	Average		1951	1952	Average		1951	1952
	1935-39	1945-49	1953 4/	1952	1953 4/	1945-49	1951	1952	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA												
Canada.....	172:	238:	314:	339:	362:	40.8	50.9	58.2	7,010:	10,755:	15,990:	19,722:
Guatemala.....	1,000:	1,208:	1,340:	1,300:	-	15.7	13.4	13.8	15,700:	17,991:	18,000:	18,000:
Honduras.....	5/	258:	-	-	-	5/	-	-	3,717:	-	7,000:	7,000:
Mexico.....	7,501:	8,894:	10,940:	12,100:	12,108:	9.0	12.3	11.1	67,522:	95,389:	135,000:	134,000:
Nicaragua.....	86:	174:	240:	260:	-	17.4	15.0	13.8	1,500:	2,782:	3,600:	3,600:
United States.....	92,699:	85,696:	80,736:	81,359:	80,694:	25.0	35.7	40.6	2,315,554:	2,896,861:	3,306,735:	3,196,101:
Cuba.....	360:	433:	440:	380:	-	16.7	16.1	13.9	6,000:	7,101:	7,100:	6,000:
Estimated total 5/.....	103,330:	98,530:	96,050:	97,760:	97,140:	-	-	-	2,435,000:	3,217,000:	3,518,000:	3,400,000
EUROPE												
Albania.....	235:	242:	-	-	-	21.6	20.7	-	5,067:	5,020:	-	-
Austria.....	163:	152:	-	150:	160:	39.2	25.5	30.0	6,384:	3,870:	5,500:	4,500:
Bulgaria.....	2,035:	-	-	-	-	17.5	-	-	35,657:	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia.....	5/	353:	-	-	-	31.6	25.8	-	5/	9,000:	-	-
France.....	839:	649:	-	862:	940:	26.3	16.2	22.1	31.5	22,096:	10,491:	27,180:
Germany.....	85:	-	-	-	-	47.1	-	-	4,000:	-	-	-
Greece.....	650:	582:	-	625:	609:	15.5	14.7	14.5	10,078:	8,564:	9,840:	9,050:
Hungary.....	2,924:	-	-	-	-	31.5	-	-	92,007:	-	-	-
Italy.....	3,583:	3,250:	3,300:	3,310:	3,300:	31.5	28.0	30.8	113,000:	90,980:	118,000:	102,000:
Portugal.....	1,235:	1,238:	1,130:	1,180:	1,080:	12.1	10.0	14.6	9.9	12,368:	16,940:	17,230:
Rumania.....	9,870:	-	-	-	-	17.4	-	-	172,000:	-	-	-
Spain.....	1,094:	926:	990:	1,000:	1,025:	28.4	21.5	27.0	25.4	31,076:	19,920:	25,600:
Yugoslavia.....	6,615:	-	-	-	-	26.7	-	-	176,500:	-	-	-
Estimated total 5/.....	29,680:	27,820:	28,700:	28,360:	28,640:	-	-	-	695,000:	560,000:	690,000:	480,000:
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....	10,000:	7,550:	-	-	-	17.0	15.0	-	170,000:	113,000:	-	-
ASIA												
Turkey.....	1,098:	1,394:	1,540:	1,581:	1,569:	20.9	16.1	20.7	22,971:	22,406:	33,460:	32,630:
Burma.....	217:	244:	-	-	-	7.6	-	-	1,640:	-	-	-
China.....	5/	12,711:	12,100:	12,200:	-	21.8	21.6	21.3	5/	262,000:	274,013:	250,000:
Manchuria.....	3,720:	6,680:	7,500:	7,650:	-	23.3	19.5	21.6	86,585:	130,000:	155,000:	165,000:
India 7/.....	5/	7,761:	7,960:	8,800:	-	10.3	10.3	11.8	5/	67,240:	79,836:	104,000:
Pakistan 7/.....	811:	986:	960:	970:	-	17.7	16.9	15.5	5/	14,360:	16,688:	15,000:
Indonesia.....	1,053:	-	-	-	-	21.2	-	-	22,368:	-	-	-
Indochina.....	5,600:	-	-	-	-	15.2	15.4	-	88,000:	86,000:	-	-
Japan.....	133:	160:	-	168:	-	24.2	21.7	27.6	3,094:	2,881:	4,020:	4,630:
Korea.....	321:	-	-	-	-	13.0	-	-	4,177:	-	-	-
Philippine Republic.....	1,765:	1,820:	2,355:	2,440:	-	8.9	10.1	9.9	15,715:	18,340:	23,750:	24,210:
Estimated total 5/.....	34,570:	39,560:	38,600:	40,910:	40,610:	-	-	-	620,000:	665,000:	670,000:	725,000:
												695,000

AFRICA													
Belgian Congo.....	179	670	828	-	5/	19.6	17.9	14.7	-	-	3,500	12,000	12,210
Kenya g/.....	103	136	154	-	-	30.3	24.9	29.2	27.6	-	3,121	3,393	4,500
Beautoland.....	350	350	-	-	-	8.1	6.8	-	-	-	2,822	2,368	-
Egypt.....	1,599	1,699	1,720	1,770	-	39.5	33.4	32.6	33.5	-	63,229	56,696	59,300
French Morocco.....	1,112	1,260	1,243	1,165	1,142	7.6	8.0	6.8	9.8	10.3	8,505	10,074	11,400
French West Africa.....	5/	1,732	1,523	1,516	-	5/	12.4	8.7	8.7	-	5/	21,473	13,240
Madagascar.....	260	214	220	-	-	15.3	11.6	14.1	-	-	3,969	2,472	3,100
Angola.....	1,435	-	361	-	-	9.0	-	-	-	-	12,859	12,900	-
Southern Rhodesia g/.....	268	293	-	390	-	22.1	18.1	24.4	23.1	-	5,923	5,298	9,000
Union of South Africa.....	6,989	7,106	6,510	7,500	-	11.5	12.2	11.3	15.3	-	80,132	86,699	73,390
Estimated total g/.....	18,200	19,260	19,810	20,760	20,200	-	-	-	-	-	255,000	265,000	260,000
SOUTH AMERICA													
Argentina.....	10,775	5,363	3,536	6,005	-	28.0	28.9	22.7	22.5	-	301,986	155,012	80,310
Brazil.....	10,025	10,866	11,740	12,125	-	21.5	20.7	19.8	18.6	-	215,153	224,400	233,000
Chile.....	110	115	150	126	-	22.7	22.5	23.3	28.2	-	2,496	2,599	3,500
Colombia.....	5/	1,360	1,898	2,086	2,086	15.1	15.4	17.5	17.5	18.9	19,511	25,429	33,270
Uruguay.....	425	395	641	725	-	12.2	10.1	7.2	11.9	-	5,188	3,997	4,610
Estimated total g/.....	24,930	20,840	20,500	23,480	24,290	-	-	-	-	-	575,000	450,000	390,000
OCEANIA													
Australia.....	314	222	170	130	-	22.4	26.6	23.6	33.8	-	7,070	5,899	4,020
New Zealand.....	7	7	6	6	-	45.4	55.6	63.3	58.3	-	318	389	380
Estimated total g/.....	325	235	180	140	180	-	-	-	-	-	7,430	6,370	4,480
Estimated world total g/.....	221,040	213,800	212,840	220,410	220,060	-	-	-	-	-	4,760,000	5,275,000	5,260,000

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which follow; thus the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1953 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvest which will begin early in 1954. 2/ Figures refer to harvested area as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Preliminary estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for the Southern Hemisphere, preliminary forecasts. 5/ Average of less than 5 years. 6/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 7/ Figures for the period shown are not strictly comparable since figures for 1951-53 include estimates for non-reporting areas, which were not included with earlier figures shown, though allowances were included in estimated total for Asia. 8/ Production on European holdings only. Allowances for native cultivation, not shown, are included in estimated total for Africa.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

Corn production in Europe appears much larger than the poor 1952 harvest though it is not up to the prewar average. The increase is mainly in the Danube Basin countries where the corn crop was cut sharply by drought last year. Late-summer drought in parts of the area reduced the corn crop again this year, and total production, though considerably better than the small 1952 harvest, is still somewhat below average. Moderate increases over the 1952 crop are reported for western Europe, where record or near-record outturns are reported for some countries. The harvest in Italy, the largest producer of Western Europe, is estimated at 118 million bushels. This is one of the largest crops of recent years though somewhat less than the record outturn of 135 million bushels reported in 1940. France's estimated harvest of 29.6 million bushels would set a new production record for that country.

Corn is a relatively small crop in the Soviet Union. The current crop appears likely to be less than in 1952 because of lower per acre yields. Somewhat below-average yields are indicated on the basis of unfavorable conditions in some important producing regions.

Production in Asia is estimated to be 695 million bushels, a little below the large 1952 total but considerably above average. A slight reduction in acreage is estimated, but smaller yields account for most of the decrease.

Africa's corn crop is tentatively estimated at 280 million bushels, compared with 310 million a year ago. The current estimate must be regarded as a very preliminary indication, since the ranking producer of the area, the Union of South Africa, is just planting its corn for the harvest to begin next April. This is the crop that combines with corn harvested in Northern Hemisphere countries in the fall of 1953.

The corn harvest in South America takes place generally about the same time as in the Union of South Africa, and only tentative allowances are possible this early in the season. Some increase over last year's acreage is forecast, especially for Argentina where the Government is encouraging an increase of 20 percent in acreage. Maintenance of last year's guaranteed price of about \$2.29 per bushel, for the 1953-54 marketing season has been announced. It is still too early, however, for a definite indication of the actual acreage increase effected.

Corn is of minor importance in Oceania. Increased acreage is expected in Australia, the principal producer of the area, and if growing conditions are favorable a good increase may be expected over the 4.4 million bushels produced there last season.